

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Plans to air the
production "Stolen
Honor" go directly
against
responsibilities of
broadcasters to
serve the public
interest.
Partisanship is not
determined by
whether or not John
Kerry accepts an
invitation to
appear, but by the
decision to air a
one-sided production
-- especially only
weeks before an
important election.

It is important for
all stations,
especially those
owned by larger
companies, to model
good citizenship and
serve the community
by demonstrating and
reinforcing the
importance of free
speech ... this is
the media's sacred
role in maintaining
the strength of our
democracy.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important

that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.